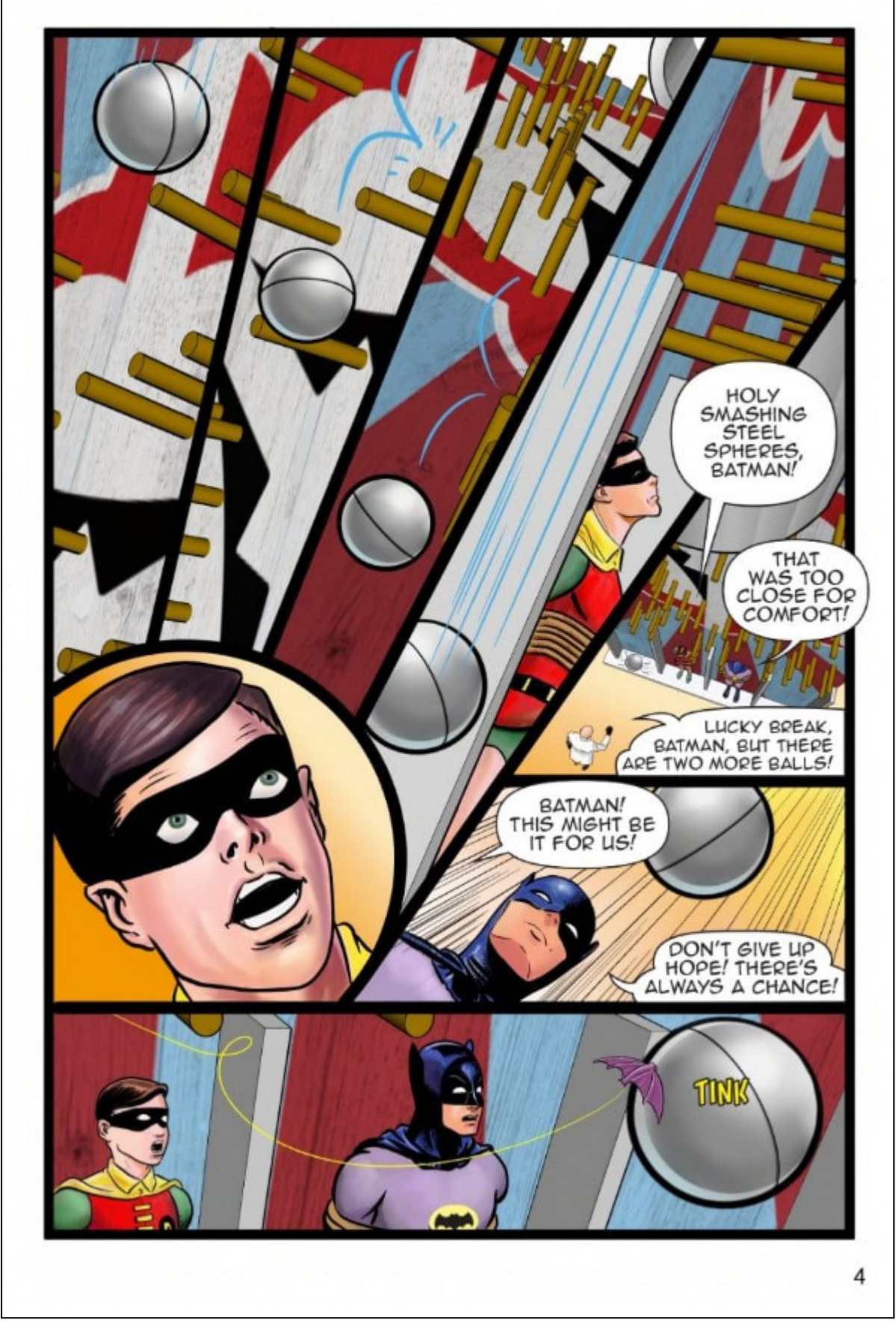


Artist Spotlight: Howard Simpson

8/24/2020 1 Comment

Digital Renaissance Man

Today, we feature a powerhouse creator, who's work you've seen in *DC* and *Valiant* comics. He's an artist whose ever popular dance card includes *Disney*, *Warner Bros.* and *HBO*. We speak of course, of the talented and gracious, Howard Simpson.



Simpson displays his mastery of page design in this excerpt from issue two.

Simpson's love of comics goes back to his childhood in Newark, New Jersey. At the age of five, he found some discarded comic books in the basement and he knew even then that he wanted to be an artist.

Simpson broke into the business at DC Comics in the early 90's, working as a fill-in artist. From there he built a name for himself at *Valiant* working on such popular titles as *Harbinger*, *Turok*, and *Psi-Lords*.

"I started just before the *Unity Saga*," says Simpson. "The atmosphere was much like I imagined how Stan Lee described the *Marvel Bullpen*. All the creative people were working in one spot, It was a very friendly, fun atmosphere."



Simpson's early work includes this stunning cover for *Turok: Dinosaur Hunter*.

As an artist, Simpson has fully embraced the digital renaissance. "Currently about 90% of what I draw is a result of using digital tools," he says. "I use a *Wacom* tablet and stylus and a variety of software. I'm not a purist, so I mix-and-match and use whatever I need to get the job done. So that software includes *Art Rage*, *Clip Studio Paint*, *Sketchbook Pro*, *Photoshop* and others.

This flexibility with technology also extends to his art style. Simpson says that he never developed a singular style, preferring to let the needs of the story dictate the form.

When asked for advice, Simpson states, "My advice is to learn the basics; anatomy, composition, perspective, color theory, and to not try to learn short cuts right away."



Simpson won a Pulp Factory Best Artist award for his work on *Bulldog Drummond*.

Batman Meets Godzilla

"I was introduced to *Batman* by my mother, who also introduced me to *Star Trek* and *Xena: Princess Warrior*," says Simpson.

Simpson joined the Batzilla Team towards the end of production on *Batman Meets Godzilla* issue one. "We had an artist drop out of the project due to the Australian brush fires," says writer Eric Elliott. "Howard jumped in to fill the gap."

Simpson turned in an iconic splash page that introduced Godzilla in that issue. "The fan feedback was so positive to Simpson's Godzilla," says Elliott. "And his Batman and Robin too. I basically begged him to do any four pages he wanted in the next book."



For issue two, Howard took on an even larger role. "He's really the unsung hero of issue two," says Elliott. "He took the four hardest pages in the book. He did all the lettering. Plus he did five pages of colors for the other artists."

When asked about *Batman Meets Godzilla*, Simpson says, "This project was a lot of fun to work on I enjoyed putting Batman and Robin in the same world as Godzilla. I used the chance to experiment with some storytelling techniques and to experiment with coloring. I wanted it to look more natural and less computer-generated."

Howard Simpson is the creator/owner of [Abba Studios](#). You can follow him on [Instagram](#). Check out his work on *Batman Meets Godzilla* [Issue Two](#), available now for free.

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1 Comment

Mike Bunkermeister Creek

11/19/2022 02:08:12 am

This comic is awesome. I have read the first two issues more than once. The art is wonderful and the story line is very much in line with Batman 66 which is my favorite superhero TV show and comic. Thank you very much. I check my computer frequently for Issued #3! I will be happy to read it but sad that the story will end.

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The Project

Project Batzilla is a group of fans dedicated to resurrecting the lost *Batman Meets Godzilla* movie.

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